

EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE CANDIDATE 2011

DEBORAH LEBARRON



1. Why do you want to serve as the Municipal Court Judge for Euclid? **I would like to continue to serve and to run an efficient and a fair court. I have developed programs like the computerization of the court at no cost to the taxpayers. We launched a web site to provide**

more information to users of the court as well as the public. We're working on a new project to take waiver and fine payments online. I also want to serve because I know the community well, being a home owner here for 22 years.

2. How would you plan to have an impact on the drug problem in Euclid? **First, I'd say that our drug problem isn't any worse than other communities. I sentence people to various drug treatment programs. Depending on their income, many of the programs are free and some are on sliding scales. What we are trying to do is to give people the tools to change their behavior. The change is up to them, but we provide the tools to help.**

3. What ideas do you have to take care of the foreclosed homes and houses with violations in Euclid? Would you consider a "housing court?" **I already handle housing issues as a part of the regular docket. I work closely with the Housing Department to deal with the lists of violators. Municipal Court doesn't deal with foreclosure issues. I'd continue to work closely with the Housing Department with the goal of compliance.**

4. How strict will you be on sentencing – will the punishments meet the crime, or would you be lenient? If so, what cases would you consider leniency? **The Canons of Ethics don't allow us to set out what a sentence will be. Every case is different. We deal with human beings and every situation is different from the next. The Ohio Revised Code sets out the sentencing factors according to the severity of the crime.**

5. There is talk of crime increasing due to the economy; what do you plan to do in order to deter crime in the future? **The police are doing their job and the**

judicial branch is here to stop repeat offenders. We do things for the Community Control programs like "Finish First" that is for people with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. A lawyer and a police officer explain what authority police have on the street. The goal is to teach the public how they should interact with an officer. It's the public's conduct that determines an arrest. This is aimed to teach youth about the proper interaction they should have with police. I'm a proponent of education and I encourage people to get a GED which will make them more employable. Drug treatment programs give them tools to change their life as well.

6. Can you make sure criminals aren't set free too soon because of the lack of funds to keep them in jail? **I do sentence people to jail and it is expensive depending on if they are jailed in the city or the county. I sentence people to community service in lieu of jail. I work closely with the correction departments both here and at the county. I'm mindful of the cost of housing prisoners and I'm aware of using jail when it is appropriate.**

7. How would you keep costs in line to run the court? Do you have ideas to trim costs for day to day functions without sacrificing employees necessary to the operation of the court? **We've computerized the court with user's fees at no cost to the tax payer. In my 13 years I've fully computerized the court. We are required by the Supreme Court to hold files for 25 years. We now store cases digitally in order to comply both efficiently and with minimal cost.**

8. What unique credentials and skills would you bring to the job? Why should we vote for you to serve as our judge? **I have worked for this community for over 22 years, first as Chief Counsel for the City of Euclid for 7 years, Law Director for 2 years and now I've served as judge for 13 years. I've raised two children here and I'm committed to the city. I've modernized the court. I have a good background to serve as judge and I have the ability to work well with a variety of administrations. It's always been a productive relationship. I work well with police and correction officials and I think that being a mother has helped me in learning how to listen well.**

9. What book are you currently reading? **"Moth Smoke" by Mohsin Hamid**



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BARRY L. SWEET



1. Why do you want to serve as the Municipal Court Judge for Euclid?

I have a lengthy professional career dealing with improving the lives of others. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity I must seize and I believe I can contribute positively to the community.

2. How would you plan to have an impact on the drug problem in Euclid? **Point number one would be the prompt enforcement of drug law violations brought to my attention. That enforcement comes with understanding incentives by the offender and the public to promote the deterrent effect of the law.**

3. What ideas do you have to take care of the foreclosed homes and houses with violations in Euclid? Would you consider a "housing court?" **There is a housing court as a separate docket of cases. City Hall has a housing department that promptly inspects and responds to housing violations.**

4. How strict will you be on sentencing – will the punishments meet the crime, or would you be lenient? If so, what cases would you consider leniency? **All sentences are teachable moments. Ohio sentencing statute is clear on factors of mitigation and sentencing. I'd propose to be a judge who will explain those factors so that the people will understand. No two cases are exactly alike.**

5. There is talk of crime increasing due to the economy; what do you plan to do in order to deter crime in the future? **I would enforce the law strictly and use sentencing as teachable moments to get the word out to the community of the consequences of acting in a criminal way before you think.**

6. Can you make sure criminals aren't set free too soon because of the lack of funds to keep them in jail? **We have to figure out a way in this community to house the criminals we have. "Shock jail" is only for a few days, but it can help criminals think ahead**

before getting themselves in deeper trouble and committing more crime.

7. How would you keep costs in line to run the court? Do you have ideas to trim costs for day to day functions without sacrificing employees necessary to the operation of the court? **The court operates under a budget. If you can protect an offender's job, that source of income can pay the fines and fees of the court. If court debts could be paid over the Internet then more fees might be acquired to get more funds for the court. I intend to increase fines.**

8. What unique credentials and skills would you bring to the job? Why should we vote for you to serve as our judge? **I spent 29 years as a small business owner, operating a thriving criminal and civil law practice. I also have 41 years of professional teaching experience. I have a broad career and expertise in interpersonal communication and a detailed understanding of the people of Euclid with 43 years of residency. I have an excellent background and an association with police operations as a Civil Service Commissioner for 12 years.**

9. What book are you currently reading? **Ohio Campaign Finance Manual**



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